

Special Services At Home - Passport Provincial Coalition

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May 1, 2020

Hon. Minister Todd Smith
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Ferguson Block, 7th Floor
77 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, ON
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Dear Minister Smith,

We are writing to you again to address urgent matters as families and individuals who rely on supports through SSAH and Passport funding need immediate response to the following:

- 1) Families and individuals living with disability are pleased that the government has announced flexibility in the use of SSAH and Passport funding during the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, there are many questions regarding how this will work and uncertainty on the eligibility of items and services. **When will families, individuals, and supporting agencies receive answers on these temporary changes to SSAH and Passport?**
- 2) Families are expressing an extreme high level of anxiety waiting on new approvals to SSAH and Passport. **When will the new packages/approvals be sent out?**
- 3) Finally, people are facing financial hardship and cannot afford delays in reimbursement of funds – which has been a problem for some time. **Will the Ministry guarantee quick reimbursement to submitted claims and invoices to SSAH and Passport in order to alleviate and prevent additional stress on families and individuals?**

We look forward to your quick response regarding these three issues as families and individuals are already deeply affected by the pandemic. Responsiveness from your Ministry would a long way to providing security and a reduction of stress that people are facing.

With sincerest regards,
Alison Ouellette and Susann Palmiere
Co-chairs, SSAHPC

cc. Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues
Janet Menard, Deputy Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Jennifer Morris, Assistant Deputy Minister of Children with Special Needs